

earned the right to American citizenship. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to fight for a pathway to citizenship for millions of individuals like Gregoria and Jose.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Equal Healthcare for All Act. Federal law protects against discrimination in housing, schooling, and employment.

But equitable access to healthcare remains broadly unprotected, the consequences of which are deadly: for Black women who are more likely to die during childbirth, for Hispanic individuals who suffer from higher rates of chronic diseases, for LGBTQ individuals who postpone medical treatment for fear of discrimination.

For the first time in our Nation's history, my bill would make equitable healthcare a protected civil right. And it will be another important step towards breaking down the barriers of discrimination in our country.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Dwayne Hall, a community leader and good friend, for his efforts to conceptualize and advance this bill. The importance of those efforts cannot be understated.

BETTER MANAGEMENT FOR OUR FEDERAL FORESTS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to point out, as a result of the over 2 million acres of fire that have happened in California, the next thing that happens is when the winter comes, and the rains come—like we are having so much now—the deluge of rain caused after the forest fires because of unmanaged forests the erosion that we are seeing here.

This example here is Highway 70 running through Butte County and Plumas County. The rockslide you see here is part of the fire scar. So when we lose all that foliage, you get erosion.

What does erosion mean? Not just the highway being closed, but this washes into, in this case Feather River, on down into Lake Oroville, which is a water source for 25 million people in California.

So why is this important? Because we have to do a much better job of managing our Federal forests, our Federal lands, and we are not doing that. We are not doing it speedily enough because we have so much to catch up on, yet every year millions of acres of forest land burn. This is just one of the results here.

The lost transportation. The water quality that affects so many people is

going to be negatively affected by this lack of action. We need the Forest Service to move rapidly towards not only mitigating the fires from this year with erosion, but also manage these lands so we don't have these horrific fires.

GO ASTROS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I want everybody to know there is breaking news, and you are going to see something exciting on the floor of the House tomorrow.

First of all, Go Astros. The big orange is rolling into Atlanta. And I know the red, white, and blue is in Atlanta, called the Braves. But we are coming in because there is nothing more meteoric than the Astros.

And breaking news, we will be on the floor tomorrow with some exciting challenges. Go Astros, all the way to the World Series.

But I don't mind accepting a challenge, and tomorrow I think we will have some folks from Atlanta and Georgia and some folks from Texas and Houston on the floor tomorrow with some breaking news. Go Astros.

HELP FOR OUR RETURNING SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of our Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, our servicemen and—women have sacrificed so much in their courageous fight for our exceptional Nation and our freedoms. Unfortunately, when our veterans return home from the battlefield, too often they find that their fight has just begun.

My home county in New York, Suffolk, boasts one of the highest concentrations of veterans in the country, and we pride ourselves on our rich history and commitment to serving our Nation's veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that approximately 20 veterans per day take their own life, oftentimes plagued with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

One of those suffering was PFC Joseph Dwyer, an Iraq war veteran from

Mount Sinai, New York. As an Army combat medic, PFC Dwyer was the face of the Iraq war. In 2003, this photo next to me was taken of Joe carrying an injured Iraqi child to safety, and it went viral worldwide.

Unfortunately, when he came back home to Long Island he returned with the mental wounds of war, and after years of struggling, he lost his battle with PTSD in 2008. It is important to note that Joe didn't commit suicide. He was seeking temporary relief from his pain, and his last words were: I don't want to die.

Understanding that PFC Dwyer was just one of the local veterans struggling, I created the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program as a New York State senator in 2012. The Dwyer program is modeled as a peer-to-peer support program for veterans struggling with PTSD and TBI.

This model provides a safe, confidential, and educational platform where all veterans are welcome to meet with other veterans in support of each other's successful transition to post-service life and seeks to build vet-to-vet relationships that enhance positive change.

The Dwyer program also incorporates a variety of therapeutic activities, such as horse training and fishing that provide for common experiences, learning, and personal growth.

Suffolk County served as one of four test counties in New York, and since then, with the dedication and hard work of so many exceptional men and women, the program has successfully expanded to more than 25 counties across New York, saving lives and assisting tens of thousands of New York veterans battling PTSD and TBI.

The program has been so successful that the New York State budget for fiscal year 2022 included a 22 percent increase in funding for the Dwyer program. The way the program is organized, by providing grants to localities, it has allowed each county to customize its individual program to fit individual needs and resources they have available while running an efficient and effective program.

Each county only receives between \$100,000 and \$300,000 from the State, and what they manage to do with that money is incredible.

Its continued track record of success is why I introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1476, the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act, to expand the Dwyer program nationally by authorizing the VA Secretary to make grants available to State and local entities, to carry out peer-to-peer mental health programs all across our Nation and help ensure that all of our Nation's veterans have access to the support they need.

This important legislation has earned the support of 14 veteran advocacy organizations, including: The American Legion, Military Veterans Advocacy, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Order of the Purple